

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 131422Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1203
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1495

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PGOV SHUM HU RO
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN NATIONALISM

REF: BUCHAREST 2244

1. WHILE WE REGARD PROF. TOKES AS AN INTERESTING AND QUALIFIED OBSERVER OF THE HUNGARIAN SCENE, SOME OF HIS CONCLUSIONS AND ESPECIALLY THOSE OF BUCHAREST 2244 ARE GREATLY OVERDRAWN.

2. TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT: WHILE HUNGARIANS ARE MORE NATIONALLY AWARE TODAY THAN THEY WERE IN THE RECENT PAST, THE HUNGARY OF 1978 IS NOT COMPARABLE TO THE HUNGARY OF THE 1930'S. THE "NEM, NEM SOHA" ATMOSPHERE OF THE POST WORLD WAR I PERIOD IS SIMPLY NOT A FACTOR IN TODAY'S HUNGARY, AND THE ODDS AGAINST IT EMERGING AS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL FORCE ARE VERY LONG INDEED.

3. THIS NATIONAL AWARENESS IS BASED ON PRIDE IN HUNGARY'S RELATIVE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY. HUNGARIANS ARE CONVINCED THEY ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH, ARE REINVIGORATING THEIR
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ECONOMIC REFORM, ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO COPE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS BY STRESSING EFFICIENCY AND INTEGRATION INTO THE WORLD ECONOMY OF THEIR ECONOMY, AND, WHILE NOT CHALLENGING THE USSR, ARE MANIFESTING SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR FOREIGN POLICY. THEIR GOAL IS DETENTE, WHICH WILL PERMIT THEM TO PURSUE STRENGTHENED ECONOMIC (AND POLITICAL)

TIES WITH THE WEST WHILE NOT CALLING THEIR SOCIALIST CREDENTIALS INTO QUESTION. IT IS NOT BASED ON IRREDENTISM.

4. WHILE ROMANIA'S TREATMENT OF ITS HUNGARIAN MINORITY IS AN IRRITANT, TO PROMOTE IT TO A MAJOR POLITICAL FORCE IN HUNGARY IS TO LOOK AT THE WHOLE QUESTION THROUGH THE WRONG END OF A TELESCOPE.
WILGIS

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